

51047 to 51049—Continued.

in the heart of the North Island. The timber is hard and durable and especially useful for boat building, as its limbs have many knees. About Christmas time (midsummer here) it is covered with a wealth of scarlet blossoms, and on this account the British colonists call it the Christmas tree. As it has thick evergreen foliage and is quite uninjured by salt-water spray, it makes splendid shelter in exposed seaside situations. It grows readily from slips; and a hedge, shelter belt, or plantation is quickly available. It will not grow in a cold climate, but should find a congenial second home in Florida, California, and the Gulf States, where it should be of considerable value. I gathered this seed from a well-shaped healthy specimen, which last summer was a picture with its abundant blossoms."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 48151.

51049. MERYTA SINCLAIRII (Hook. f.) Seem. Araliaceae.

"*Puka*. This small dioecious tree, grows from 15 to 20 feet high and has larger leaves than any other New Zealand plant. It is found native only in the North Island; once the rarest of trees, only one specimen being known. A missionary discovered it near a native village (pah). It was 'tapu,' and he was forbidden under pain of death to touch it. He sketched it and announced its discovery, which was skeptically received among botanists. He returned in 12 years and found the pah deserted. He obtained some of the leaves, and the plant was classified by the botanist, Sinclair, and named for him. Subsequently 27 plants were discovered on some small islands in the Hauraki Gulf (New Zealand). From them, all existing trees of this species originated. It is a very ornamental tree, much favored for parks and gardens. It will not stand much frost, but should grow well in your warmer areas. It makes a beautiful pot plant. Like nearly all our trees, it is evergreen. Trees vary much in the size and glossiness of their foliage. The tree from which I collected the inclosed seed is a very fine one."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 47570.

51050 and 51051.

From San Jose, Costa Rica. Collected by Wilson Popenoe, Agricultural Explorer of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Received July 15, 1920. Quoted notes by Mr. Popenoe.

51050. ANNONA MURICATA L. Annonaceae.**Soursop.**

"(No. 407. June 24, 1920.) Bud sticks of the *Bennett* soursop. A choice variety of the soursop from the garden of the superintendent of Zent Farm, United Fruit Co., near Port Limon. The tree is more productive than any other I have seen, and the fruit is unusually large and handsome. Budded trees of this variety should be tested in Porto Rico, Cuba, southern Florida, and elsewhere; I believe they will prove decidedly superior to the average seedling. The name *Bennett* has been given in honor of Mr. George S. Bennett, agricultural superintendent of the Costa Rican division, United Fruit Company."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 49258.

For an illustration of the fruit of the soursop, see Plate VII.